

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08567 151720Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 /086 W  
----- 013157 /62

R 151551Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 946  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO  
SUBJECT: PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL HOLDS SECOND SESSION

REF: DAMASCUS 8520

1. SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED THAT PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL HELD SECOND SESSION MORNING OF DEC. 13. THAT EVENING, PRES. ASAD RECEIVED CC DELEGATION HEADED BY PNC AND CC CHAIRMAN KHALID FAHUM AND INCLUDING ARAFAT, CC SECRETARY SAMI ATTARI (WHO ALSO MEMBER OF BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND) AND SOME MEMBERS OF CC. MEDIA NOTED THAT FAHUM BRIEFED ASAD ON POSITIVE SPIRIT EVINCED DURING FIRST TWO CC SESSIONS, PARTICULARLY "PROCESS OF SELF-CRITICISM EXERCISED DURING DISCUSSION OF LEBANESE CRISIS." SPEAKING FOR CC, FAHUM REAFFIRMED NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIA.

2. ASAD IN TURN REITERATED SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE. IN ADDITION, ASAD URGED CC MEMBERS TO BROADEN THEIR ANALYSIS OF LEBANESE SITUATION IN ORDER TO "ABSORB NECESSARY LESSONS" TO ENSURE PALESTINIANS  
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"DO NOT FALL INTO ERRORS THAT WOULD DAMAGE PALESTINIAN

PROGRESS IN COMING STAGE." MEDIA ACCOUNT CONCLUDED BY  
ASSERTING THAT "EVERYONE PRESENT EXPRESSED FULL SATIS-  
FACTION WITH EVERYTHING PRES. SAID AND VOICED APPRECIATION  
FOR SYRIA'S ROLE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE."

3. COMMENT: LOCAL MEDIA ACCOUNT OF CC PROCEEDINGS  
DOES NOT PORTRAY PALESTINIANS IN VERY FAVORABLE LIGHT.  
STRESS IS LAID UPON THEIR CONFESSION OF ERRORS IN  
LEBANON. ASAD APPEARS TO STRIKE CONDESCENDING POSE,  
URGING ASSEMBLED GATHERING TO BROADEN SELF-CRITIQUE TO  
AVOID SIMILAR MISTAKES IN FUTURE. SECONDLY, ARAFAT  
DEPICTED IN PHOTOS AS SITTING NEXT TO ASAD BUT IN MEDIA  
ACCOUNT FUNCTIONS SOLELY AS PASSIVE MEMBER OF CHORUS WHO  
NODS HEAD PENITENTLY WHILE FAHUM RECITES LITURGY AND  
ASAD DELIVERS BENEDICTION. THIS SEEMS SELF-SERVING  
ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSIONS INTENDED TO SUPPORT SARG  
ASSERTIONS THAT DEVIATIONIST PLO LEADERS, RATHER THAN  
ASAD REGIME, WERE TO BLAME FOR THE CONFRONTATION IN LEBANON.

MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 DEC 1976  
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